

It is clear that without a robust, innovative economy, it will be next to impossible to ever truly reduce our national budgetary deficit. Yet this CR cuts some of the very investments that are needed to address the crisis in competitiveness in our country that we are confronting now.

For some time, important leaders in our business and academic community have warned us about this crisis. In 2005, the National Academies panel, chaired by former Lockheed Martin CEO Norm Augustine, released a report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm." This report warned that without a focused effort by the Federal Government, the future of American competitiveness was bleak. It recommended increased efforts in science, technology, engineering, and math, and we have failed to see this vision.

The reason for these investments is simple: technological innovation leads to jobs. Several studies have estimated that over 50 percent of America's economic growth since World War II is a direct result of technological innovation. Some studies have suggested that this percentage is much higher still.

This technological innovation coincided with an increased Federal investment in research, development and STEM education.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I urge my colleagues to reject the cuts being proposed in the Republican CR.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DALE SPECKEN, 2010 MINNESOTA FIRE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Minnesota's Fire Officer of the Year, Dale Specken of Hopkins. Known for his can-do attitude, loyalty, and fairness, Dale has long had the respect of all of his colleagues because of his passion for teaching others about fire prevention and going beyond the call of duty to help others and the community.

Dale comes from a long line of firefighters and in 1981 joined the family business. Working hard and rising through the ranks, he became Hopkins fire chief in 2005. Being the dedicated community servant that he is, Dale also serves as the emergency manager and fire marshal for the City of Hopkins.

I want to congratulate Dale on being named Minnesota's Fire Officer of the Year. Thank you for your many years of tireless service and for your unwavering commitment to our community.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(Mr. GARAMENDI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARAMENDI. I was so pleased to hear my colleague a moment ago, Mr. Speaker, talk about firemen. However, the continuing resolution that is now before this House would lay off 1,333 firemen across this Nation. It would also lay off 2,410 firefighters across this Nation.

We're now into the sixth week of the Republican control of this House, and yet we have no jobs; but instead of a jobs bill, we have a jobs layoff bill. The continuing resolution will lay off tens of thousands, indeed, hundreds of thousands of men and women all across this Nation, from firefighters to cops to construction workers; 76 projects that are going to be built and infrastructure will be canceled.

We're looking at 200,000 young children that will not be in the Head Start program, which means their teachers and the others that are running those programs will be laid off.

This is the most anti-jobs bill I could possibly imagine; and here we are in the 6 weeks, no jobs, just job layoffs.

ARIZONA BEGINS ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY TODAY

(Mr. SCHWEIKERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, today is one of those special days, and for many of us, you think of it as Valentine's Day, but for Arizona, this is our 99th birthday. Today, we begin our 100th year, and the wonderful folks in Arizona, which is a stunningly beautiful State, for those of you who have not had a chance to visit us—from the Grand Canyon, down through the mountains, down even further to the desert plateaus, to the grasslands down south—come join us for our 100th anniversary celebration.

All through this year, all up and down the State, there are going to be special activities, special dinners, special commemorations for the baby State, the valentine State that is Arizona, as it begins its 100th anniversary today.

THE GRAMMY AWARDS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, last night in Los Angeles, California, the Grammy Awards took place, and I am proud that one of my Memphis constituents, Kirk Whalum, received a Grammy. I am also proud that a special award was given to Al Bell who had been the head of Stax Records.

But even further, there was a tribute to Solomon Burke, one of the great singers of all time. The tribute was done by Mick Jagger. Nobody can quite do anything like Mick Jagger. But it was fitting that Mick Jagger did Solomon Burke, because Solomon Burke in the 1960s was one of the first African Americans to do Bob Dylan, and Bob

Dylan was there, too. And then Eminem got the best rap song.

So it was a good, spirited night at the Grammys of biracial, cultural cooperation and understanding and love.

□ 1920

THE DUST POLICE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the EPA is now going after the farms and ranches that feed the American people. They say ranching and farming cause dust. Well, no kidding. So out with the dust, and in with more regulations and fines.

Dust has been around since man first tilled the soil with primitive plows and herded sheep and cattle in the wide open spaces. The EPA also doesn't like the dirt roads used by pickups and tractors that crisscross the cattle ranches and farms that are in Texas and in the heartland of America, so the Environmental Police Agency is going to regulate the dust created by farming and ranching by imposing expensive fines on the breadbasket of America. The dust police rule would make it more expensive to feed America.

First it was punishing the domestic energy industry. Now they're going after the agriculture industry. Does the EPA wish that we import all of our food like we do crude oil? This sounds a little bit un-American to me. Maybe the EPA needs to just hit the road.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING EGYPT

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the valiant, heroic, brave people of Egypt who for 18 days took to the streets in Tahrir Square and used people power to stand up and to liberate themselves. For 18 days, they called on things like governance and to have a hand in their own destiny and their own democracy. Human rights, bread, dignity, things like that. I was so proud, watching the people in Tahrir Square of Egypt stand up and claim their dignity back, and I was proud to be able to say that so many Americans stood shoulder to shoulder with them.

I also want to add, Mr. Speaker, that it demonstrated that the people of Egypt reject the philosophy of al Qaeda, reject the philosophy of extremism, and used nonviolent tactics, tested the world over, to bring forth democracy. This is a wonderful testament to people who want freedom, justice, and equality to stand together peacefully. And it was so good, Mr. Speaker, to see people of multiple faiths—Muslims, Christians, other people, Jews—standing together to say, We want a new day in Egypt.